

U.S. PASSPORTS & INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

U.S. Department of State • Bureau of Consular Affairs



TYPES OF U.S. PASSPORTS

Fee Passports: The majority of U.S. passports fall under this category. Fee passport books are blue and alternately referred to as "regular" or "tourist" passports. These books are normally valid for 10 years (when issued to persons 16 and older) or five years (when issued to those under 16). Validity may be limited, however, if the applicant cannot provide sufficient documentation, has a history of lost/stolen passports, or is indebted to the U.S. government.



The blue passport book, alternately referred to as the *Regular or Tourist* passport, is the most commonly issued U.S. passport.

Special Issuance Passports: These passports are issued to U.S. government employees and, when appropriate, to their dependents, when traveling abroad at government expense. In limited circumstances, they may also be issued to non-personal services contractors. They are not valid for personal travel. Special issuance passports are valid for a maximum of five years. There are four types of special issuance passports:



Diplomatic - Black diplomatic passports are issued to Foreign Service Officers and other persons with diplomatic or comparable status.



Official - Maroon official passports are issued to other officials or employees of the U.S. government proceeding abroad in the discharge of official duties, and to military personnel when required by the country of destination.



Service - Gray service passports are issued on a limited basis to non-personal services (third party) contractors traveling to support the U.S. government whose travel cannot be accomplished using a regular passport.



No-Fee Regular - Blue no-fee regular passports are issued to, among others, certain categories of employees of the Department of Defense, American National Red Cross, and Peace Corps volunteers assigned overseas.

All service, official, diplomatic, and most categories of no-fee regular passports are issued by the Special Issuance Agency (SIA) in Washington, D.C. The Charleston Passport Center assists SIA with issuance of official passports for Department of Defense personnel and no-fee passports for military dependents. The Honolulu Passport Agency assists SIA in the issuance of no-fee passports for military dependents.